PLANS have been perfected and the contracts let for converting the Billings estate on Washington Heights, New York City, into a war hospital. This property, comprising fifty-seven acres of land, was purchased about a year ago by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., with the idea of eventually giving it to the city for a park. The plans for the war hospital call for the expenditure of $500,000 for remodeling the buildings already on the property and the erection of additional buildings necessary to the completion of a hospital system.

THE new museum of Santa Fe, New Mexico, according to the *American Museum Journal,* has been dedicated with ceremonies extending from November 24 to 28. The building is patterned after the old Mission Church on the Rock of Acoma, in a style of architecture said to be one hundred and fifty years older than the California missions. A feature of the dedication was an exhibition of paintings by well-known members of the Santa Fé and Taos artist groups, including Robert Henri, E. J. Couse, J. H. Sharp, Walter Ufer and others, on subjects inspired by Indian, Spanish and frontier lore, and consisted of addresses, concerts, Indian dances and excursions to Indian pueblos and ancient cliff dwellings. The American Museum was represented by Dr. Clark Wissler, curator of the department of anthropology, who gave an address on "The Opportunities of the New Museum," and by Mr. N. C. Nelson, who spoke on "Recent Archeological Discoveries in the Southwest."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

FIVE members of the present University of North Carolina faculty have been appointed by the trustees Kenan professors, under the provision in the bequest of Mrs. Robert W. Bingham (Mary Lily Kenan) made public last August. They were chosen by vote of the faculty because of distinguished service rendered in the field of scholarship and university affairs. They are Professor Francis P. Venable, of the department of chemistry; Professor H. V. P. Wilson, of the department of zoology; Professor Edwin Greenlaw, of the English department; Professor William Cain, of the mathematics department, and Professor W. deB. MacNider, of the school of medicine. The Bingham bequest was made for the purpose of strengthening the faculty of the university, an annual sum of $75,000 being proided for the purpose of augmenting aid received from the state.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY plans a large diagnostic clinic for the people who do not wish to accept charity and who are unable to pay for the services of a number of experts whose special advice or examinations may be needed in order to make a diagnosis. The financial arrangement provides that every clinical worker will be paid for his work and every patient charged a fee commensurate with his income.

THE University of Maryland, by a recent ruling of the faculty, beginning the next October term, will accept women students in the medical department. This ruling admits women to every department of the university, as they have been accepted in the dental, pharmacy and law departments for some time.

As Padua has recently been the objective of Austrian air raiders, the rectorate and academic council of the university have been by official decree transferred temporarily to Pisa. The same decree authorized the minister of education to allow professors of Padua to lecture in other universities and superior institutions.

AT the Massachusetts Institute of Technology William F. Jones has been appointed instructor in geology, Royal E. Grant, instructor in physics, C. H. G. Gray, assistant in electrical engineering and Dr. F. H. Thorp, lecturer in industrial chemistry.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

CYCADEOID WOOD STRUCTURE

IN a recent communication in the *Annals of Botany* describing certain Cycadeoid rootlets Dr. Marie C. Stopes remarked the presence of scalariform structures. These are in agreement, of course, with the main body of secondary wood, which in the Cycadeoids is uni-

formly scalariform instead of pitted as in the Cycads. Dr. Stopes then takes issue with the opinion expressed in the well-known text-book of Scott to the effect that [in Cycadeoids]

> the histological details of both wood and bast agree precisely with the corresponding structures in a recent cycad.

It is even stated that no plants agree with the Cycadeoids. In the case of long-known structures represented by such profuse material as the groups referred to, botanists should be able to agree more closely as to the facts.

The point involved is that while these groups agree in their general structures and present many points of histologic contact, neither is without singularities of its own. Chamberlain makes essentially the same statement as Dr. Scott. And I see no final reason for disagreement. The old cryptogamic wood is in the Cycads as completely lost as in the later Cordaiteans, but next the pith both the existing and fossil Cycads are in very essential agreement; and in both the passage from scalariform to pitted wood is the same. Perhaps the two groups might be considered divergent histologically were it not for the fact that *Stangeria* like the Cycadeoids is an essentially scalariform type and thus forms a connecting link on the one hand; while on the other, *Cycadeoidea micromyela* has pitted wood near the cambium layer.

The differences observed are therefore not so great as they at first sight appear. And such differences are found moreover in existing dicotyls. Thus in *Trochodendron,* which has pronounced growth rings, the spring wood presents the same scalariform type as the wood of the Cycadeoids; while in the related *Drimys* with rather suppressed growth rings the main body of wood is as strikingly pitted as in Cycads or *Araucaria.* The explanation is obvious when the seedling of *Drimys* is studied. There is the same transition from the scalariform to the pitted wood as in the existing and fossil Cycads. It may be remarked incidentally that were the stems of *Trochodendron* and *Drimys,* as well as other Magnoliaceæ, divested of their radial storage tissue the agreement with both the Cycads and Cycadeoids would be a striking one indeed. It is easy, however, to look upon this storage tissue as a comparatively modern structure. There is a definite suggestion that medullar reduction and profuse branching are in some way correlated with the development of thick-walled storage tissue by dicotyls. It is not necessary to enter further upon this topic at this time; but it is evident that the facts fully sustain Scott's simple form of statement as to the agreement histologically of the Cycad and Cycadeoid woods as based partly on the study of Solms and myself.

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The Relation between Age and Area in the Distribution of Plants

In a discussion of the "Age and Area" hypothesis of Professor Willis, by E. W. Sinnott, in Science for November 9, 1917, the author very justly sets out with the contention that "other factors than age share in the area occupied by a species." Factors inherent in the plant itself, he tells us, such as hardiness, adaptability, growth habit and the like, play a very important part in determining distribution.

As a notable illustration in support of this statement, I would call attention to the rapid dispersion of a comparatively recent immigrant, the Japan honeysuckle (*Lonicera Japonica*) which now occupies a wider area in our southeastern states than the longleaf pine, and others of our "oldest inhabitants." My first recollection of this plant goes back to that now almost prehistoric time, vaguely recorded in the popular mind as "before the (civil) war," when it was known only as a garden plant. It continued in favor as an ornamental vine for piazzas and pergolas for a decade or so later, until it began to "run wild" at such a rate that it fell into disrepute for ornamental purposes, and is now the most aggressive and indomitable enemy with which our native plant population has to contend. Unlike the common herbaceous weeds of cultivation, it does not confine itself to roadsides and waste places, but invades the most secluded haunts of the wild flowers, strangling